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IMPACT OF SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS ON INCOME LEVEL OF THE HANDLOOM WEAVING WORKERS

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Abstract
Handloom sector is one of the ancient sectors in the history of India this sector is providing one of the most important things for the survival of human being. The physiological needs of the human beings are food, clothes and shelter, after food any human being are in a mode to arrange his cloths for his betterment in the society. The current study centers around examining the factors that impact the earning capacity of handloom weaving workers. Employing an empirical approach, the study seeks to establish the relationship between certain characteristics of handloom weaving workers and their income levels. In this investigation, the specific characteristics of age, education, and work experience are designated as independent variables, while the income level of the handloom weaving workers is considered the dependent variable. This research design allows for a systematic exploration of how these key factors interrelate and contribute to variations in the income levels of handloom weaving workers. By adopting this approach, the study aims to provide valuable insights into the nuanced dynamics of income determinants within the context of handloom weaving workers. Simple linear regression was applied to test the relationship between dependent and independent variables.

The findings from the study reveal a significant relationship between three variables and the income levels of handloom weaving workers. Notably, among these variables, both work experience and education emerge as more influential when compared to the age of the handloom weaving workers. In summary, the study concludes that education and experience play pivotal roles as factors influencing the earning capacity of handloom workers. These results highlight the importance of considering not only demographic factors but also professional and educational backgrounds when understanding and addressing income disparities within the handloom weaving workforce.

Key words: Income levels, Experience, Handloom weaving workers, Characteristics.

1. Introduction

The handloom industry in India boasts an ancient legacy, serving as a cornerstone in the nation's historical tapestry. Its significance lies not only in the creation of fabric but in the intricate threads that weave through the cultural and social fabric of the country. Clothing, standing as a paramount requirement after the fulfillment of basic sustenance, holds a profound influence on an individual's identity and societal integration. The handloom sector, with its diverse traditional techniques and regional nuances, embodies the essence of cultural heritage, preserving age-old craftsmanship passed down through generations. The handloom sector indeed holds significant historical and cultural importance in India. It has been a vital part of the country's heritage, playing a crucial role in meeting the basic needs of the population. Let's delve deeper into the importance of the handloom sector, especially in providing clothing, and its broader impact on society.

1. **Cultural Heritage:** Handloom weaving is deeply rooted in the cultural fabric of India. Different regions have their own traditional handloom techniques, patterns, and designs, contributing to the rich diversity of Indian textiles. The handloom sector has been a custodian of these traditional crafts, passing them down through generations.

2. **Employment Generation:** The handloom sector is a source of livelihood for a significant portion of the population, especially in rural areas. It provides employment to weavers, spinners, dyers, and various other skilled and unskilled workers. This, in turn, contributes to the economic development of these regions.
3. **Sustainable and Eco-friendly Practices:** Handloom weaving often involves the use of natural fibers and dyes, making it an eco-friendly and sustainable option. This contrasts with mass-produced textiles that may involve synthetic materials and harsh chemicals. Supporting the handloom sector promotes sustainable and environmentally friendly practices.
4. **Empowerment of Women:** Many women in rural areas are actively involved in handloom weaving. This sector has been a source of empowerment for women, providing them with opportunities for economic independence and skill development.
5. **Promotion of Rural Economy:** The handloom sector has a positive impact on the rural economy by creating employment opportunities and supporting local artisans and weavers. This helps in reducing migration from rural to urban areas in search of livelihood.
6. **Preservation of Traditional Skills:** The handloom sector plays a crucial role in preserving traditional weaving techniques and skills. As technology advances, there is a risk of losing these age-old methods. Supporting handloom ensures the continuation of these skills.
7. **Cottage Industry Development:** Handloom weaving is often associated with cottage industries. The decentralization of production in smaller units has a positive impact on the overall economic landscape by promoting small-scale entrepreneurship.
8. **Global Recognition:** Indian handloom products are celebrated globally for their craftsmanship, uniqueness, and cultural significance. The handloom sector contributes to India's soft power by showcasing its cultural diversity through textiles.

2. Socio- Demographic Factors and Income

The relationship between income and demographic characteristics is a complex and multifaceted area of study that explores how various demographic factors influence an individual's or a group's income levels. Demographic characteristics typically include attributes such as age, gender, education, marital status, occupation, and ethnicity, among others. Understanding the interplay between these demographic factors and income can provide valuable insights into patterns of economic inequality and social dynamics. For example, researchers may investigate whether there are income disparities based on gender, with studies often highlighting gender wage gaps. Education is another critical demographic factor; higher levels of education are often associated with increased earning potential. Age can also play a role, as individuals at different stages of their careers may have varying income levels. Marital status and family structure can impact income, with considerations such as dual-income households, single-parent households, or the number of dependents affecting financial outcomes. Additionally, factors like occupation and industry can significantly influence income, as certain professions are associated with higher earning potentials. Research in this area may involve statistical analyses, surveys, or longitudinal studies to identify and understand the correlations and causal relationships between demographic characteristics and income levels. The goal is often to inform policymakers, businesses, and social programs on how to address disparities and promote economic equity within different demographic groups. The current study testing the three variables like age, education and work experience of the handloom weaving workers on their earning capacity. By this it considering the demographic, professional and occupational characteristics.

3. Review of Literature

The following are the few reviews on handloom weaving workers are presented briefly.

Singh & Gautam (2021) reveals that many constraints in the handloom industry may be responsible for the continuous decline in revenue from handloom export. The paper highlighted that there is an immediately needed to create awareness of the export assistance program among handloom weavers. To create awareness among beneficiaries' government should conduct seminars, and meeting for increasing awareness of government schemes.

Amit Chatterjee and Nehal Jain (2020) study shows that weaver households in the areas looked at had low living standards and quality of life. It was found that the handloom weavers of Kota Doria live in deplorable social and economic conditions and that different government programmes have been unable to help them make more money.

Ishfaq Majeed et al., (2020) this paper tries to deeply study the social and economic conditions, problems, and challenges of carpet weavers in the Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir. The study showed that the situation of carpet weavers is not good because they don't get enough education, have health problems, make low wages, don't get enough help from the government, and are taken advantage of by the middleman or master weavers.

Gundeti Ramesh (2018) found that the khadi weavers are not getting minimum wages. This paper also found that the Khadi weavers face problems like poor living conditions, high working hours, low wage rates and a lack of social security measures. However, finally, the paper concludes the appropriate policies to uplift the Khadi handloom weavers.

Avoid Roy and Dr Pradeep Chauhan (2017) found that most of the jobs in the industry are done by men with very little education. Weavers face several problems, such as not having enough money to buy new machines, terrible working conditions, a drop in wages, an increase in the price of yarn, a lack of government support, a lack of domestic demand and market, and so on. Plans aren't carried out well, and not all the money and facilities get to the people who need them. So, it's essential to plan and implement those plans so that people in the area can use those facilities well.

4. Objectives of the Study

1. To ascertain the impact of age of the handloom weaving workers on income level
2. To ascertain the impact of education of the handloom weaving workers on income level
3. To ascertain the impact of work experience of handloom weaving workers on income level

5. Hypotheses of the Study

H01: Age of the handloom weaving workers not significantly impact on income level
H02: Education of the handloom weaving workers not significantly impact on income level
H03: Work experience of the handloom weaving workers not significantly impact on income level

6. Methodology

The study employed positivism approach and adopted an explanatory survey research. The research relying on primary data collected from a sample of 300 handloom workers in Telangana State. The design chosen is appropriate because it applies closely to the research objectives of this study and is practical in testing the study hypotheses. Inferential analysis which included Pearson correlation and Simple linear regression were used to test all hypotheses required for this research, with a significance

alpha value = .05. Simple linear regression models used in this for all given variables. The following are the research equations

IL= a+ β1a + e
IL = a+ β2e + e
IL = a+ β3we + e

IL = Income Level (Dependent variable) a= Regression constant or Intercept. β1, β2, β3= the slope which represents the degree in which income level change according to the independent variable change by one-unit. a= age of the handloom worker (Independent Variable) e = education (Independent Variable) we = work experience (Independent Variable)

7. Findings of the study

This section begins with the demographic profile of the handloom weaving workers and presents the relationship between socio-demographic variables and income level of the handloom weaving workers.

Table: 1, Socio - Demographic Profile of the Handloom Weaving Workers

Categories	Sub Categories	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)	Cumulative Percentage (%)
Age of Handloom workers	Below 20 years	38	12.67	12.67
	21-30 years	54	18	30.67
	31-40 years	88	29.33	60.00
	41-50 years	70	23.33	83.33
	Above 50 years	50	16.67	100.00
	Total	**300**	**100**	
Educational Status of Handloom workers	Illiterate	60	20	20
	Primary Education	68	22.67	42.67
	SSC	108	36	78.67
	Higher Secondary	38	12.67	91.34
	Above Higher Secondary and others	26	8.66	100.00
	Total	**300**	**100**	
Experience in Years	Up to 5 Years	15	10	**10**
	5 to 10 Years	37	24.67	**34.67**
	11 to 15 Years	28	18.66	**53.33**
	16 to 20 Years	34	22.67	**76.00**
	Above 20 Years	36	24.00	**100**
	Total	**300**	**100**	

Source: Compiled from Primary Data

Above table shows the demographic profile of the handloom of weaving workers, it can be explained with percentage,

- Pertains to Age of the respondents, majority of the respondents 88 (29.33%) are in the age category of 31- 40 years after that most of respondents 70 (23.33) are in the age category of 41-50 years, and followed by 50 (16.67) respondents are belongs to above 50 years category, 54

(18%) respondents are in the category of 21 to 30 years age and only 38 (12.67) respondents are belonging to below 20 years age category.

- Regarding the Education level of the respondents, most of the workers 36% (108) are completed their secondary level education, 22.67% (68) respondents are completed their primary education, 12.67% (38) members are completed their higher secondary education, 20% (60) members are illiterate and only 8.66% (26) members are studied above higher secondary.
- Regarding the working experience of the weaving workers, 24.67% (37) of the respondents are having 5 to 10 years of experience followed by 24% (36) of the respondents are having above 20 years of experience, 22.67% (34) of the respondents are having 16 to 20 years of experience, 18.66% (28) of the respondents having 11 to 15 years' experience, and 10% (15) of the respondents are having below 5 years of experience.

Table: 2, Regression model summaries for the income level and age of the Handloom weaving workers

Model Summary								
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Change Statistics			
					F Change	df1	df2	Sig. F Change
1	0.399	0.159	0.158	0.158	131.829	1	298	.000
a. Predictors: (Constant), Age								
b. Dependent Variable: Income Level of the Respondents								

Source: Compiled from Primary Data

Form the table 1 it can be interpreting that the age of the handloom weaving workers has significant relationship with income level. The value (r=0.399) indicates a positive and a moderate relationship between the variables. The age of the handloom workers is efficient factor on earning capacity. Here the r2 value (0.159) indicates that more than 15% of the change in our dependent variable has been predicted by out independent variable. It can be concluding that the model predicting the dependent variable.

Table: 3, Predicator effects and beta estimates (Unstandardized) for income level Associated with age of the handloom weaving workers

Coefficients						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	1.983	0.178	-	11.158	.000
	Age	0.499	0.043	.399	11.482	.000
a. Dependent Variable: Income Level of the Respondents						

Source: Compiled from Primary Data

The coefficient summary shown in table 3 revealed that beta values of age of the workers (0.499, t= 11.482, p=0.000) was significant predicator of income level. The results were implicit that predicator variable was related with dependent variable. Hence the null hypothesis (H01) was disapproved.

Here is the following simple linear regression equation

Income level = 1.983+ (0.499) (Age of the hand loom weaving worker)

Table 4: Regression model summaries for the income level and education of the Handloom weaving workers

Model Summary								
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Change Statistics			
					F Change	df1	df2	Sig. F Change
1	0.561	0.314	0.313	0.50092	318.412	1	298	.000
a. Predictors: (Constant), Education of the Weaving workers								
b. Dependent Variable: Income Level of the Respondents								

Source: Compiled from Primary Data

Form the table 4 it can be interpreting that the education of the handloom weaving workers has significant relationship with income. The value (r=0.561) indicates a positive and a moderate relationship between the variables. Here the r2 value (0.314) indicates that more than 31% of the change in our independent variable income has been predicted by out independent variable education. It can be concluding that the model predicting the dependent variable.

Table: 5, Predicator effects and beta estimates (Unstandardized) for income level associated with education of the handloom weaving workers

Coefficients						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	1.545	0.139	-	11.088	.000
	Education of the Weaving workers	0.603	0.034	0.561	17.844	.000
a. Dependent Variable: Income Level of the Respondents						

Source: Compiled from Primary Data

The coefficient summary shown in table 5 revealed that beta values of education of the workers (0.603, t= 17.844, p=0.000) was significant predicator of income level. The results were implicit that

predicator variable was related with dependent variable. Hence the null hypothesis (H02) was disapproved.
Here is the following simple linear regression equation

Income level = 1.545+ (0.603) (education)

Table: 6, Regression model summaries for the income level and work experience of the Handloom weaving workers

Model Summary								
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Change Statistics			
					F Change	df1	df2	Sig. F Change
1	.699	.608	.601	.558	1255.310	1	298	.000
a. Predictors: (Constant), Work Experience								
b. Dependent Variable: Income Level of the Respondents								

Source: Compiled from Primary Data

Form the table 6 it can be interpreting that the work experience of the handloom weaving workers has significant relationship with income. The value (r=0.699) indicates a positive and a moderate relationship between the variables. Here the r2 value (0.608) indicates that more than 60% of the change in our independent variable income has been predicted by our independent variable work experience. It can be concluding that the model predicting the dependent variable.

Table: 7, Predicator effects and beta estimates (Unstandardized) for income level associated with experience of the handloom weaving workers

Coefficients						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	.581	.087	-	6.702	.000
	Work Experience	.473	.025	.299	35.430	.000
a. Dependent Variable: Income Level of the Respondents						

Source: Compiled from Primary Data

The coefficient summary shown in table 7 revealed that beta values of work experience (0.473, t= 35.430, p=0.000) was significant predicator of income level. The results were implicit that predicator variable was related with dependent variable. Hence the null hypothesis (H03) was disapproved, the p value is less than 0.05.
Here is the following simple linear regression equation.

Income level = 0.581+ (0.473) (work experience)

8. Conclusion

The current investigation explored the influence of the socio-demographic profile of handloom weaving workers on their income-earning capacity within their industry. The study independently assessed the dependent variables of age, education, and work experience in relation to the workers' income. Multifaceted variable is tested with the earning capacity like age of the workers, education of the workers and work experience of the handloom weaving workers are considered in the study. The findings revealed correlations between the age, work experience, and education of the participants and their income as weaving workers. However, it was observed that these three independent variables did not equally impact the earning capacity of the respondents in the study. Specifically, the education and work experience of handloom workers emerged as a significant factor affecting income levels, indicating that individuals with higher education tended to earn more, and vice versa. The age of the respondents had a significant but relatively low impact on the income of handloom workers. Meanwhile, the work experience of handloom workers in their field exhibited a significant and substantial impact on income levels. The analysis suggested that education and work experience are the factors more influencing on earning capacity of the handloom weaving workers.

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